(x) signage and cultural boards have been provided.

Duty-free shops at sea-ports

4160. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no duty-free shops in any Indian port;

(b) whether Government propose to set up duty-free shops at some of the sea-ports;

(c) if so, the names of such sea-ports; and

(d) by when these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Presently, there is no duty-free shop at any of the sea-ports in India.

(b) and (c) ITDC is exploring possibility of setting up of a Duty-Free Shop at Tuticorin Sea-Port.

(d) It is not possible at this stage to indicate any time frame in this regard.

Research on Utilisation of Rain Water

4161. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE :

SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to promote the research on utilization of unutilized rain water to tackle the problems of water crisis in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) The National Water Policy envisages need for intensifying research efforts in the areas of water harvesting and ground water recharge, water conservation, better water management practices and improvements in operational technology among others. The Government is also promoting rain water harvesting technology for utilization of rain water. Percolation tanks, check dams, gabion structures, dug well recharge structure, recharge shafts, roof top rain water collection are some of the means of rain water harvesting. Various innovations in water conservation by augmentation, efficient utilisation and water quality preservation have been

developed and are being practiced in the country. Mass awareness campaign is being run to bring awareness for water as a scarce resource and need for water conservation and its efficient utilisation through peoples' participation.

Central Ground Water Board has taken up a Central Sector Scheme on 'Studies of Recharge to Ground Water' on pilot basis to appraise the applicability of these innovations. Under this, 174 schemes have been taken up in various parts of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan. Under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Ministry of Rural Development is also providing technical and financial assistance to the State Governments and other implementing agencies for rain water harvesting through Water Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting.

Accordingly, several State Governments have taken up the steps to preserve traditional water sources such as ponds, canals and rivers to supply drinking water in rural as well as urban areas. Government of Madhya Pradesh has launched Pani Roko Abhiyan and Government of Andhra Pradesh has started implementation of Neeru-Meeru (water and you) programme for water conservation. Government of Rajasthan has taken up the preservation of their traditional sources of water. Government of Maharashtra has started construction of Budkis, deepening and repairs of existing wells and other water sources. Government of Gujarat has also started rejuvenation of existing water sources.

Recharging of Ground Water in Gujarat

4162. SHRI RAJU PARMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of sharp decline/shrinking of ground water table in most of the districts in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether Government have launched any comprehensive plan to fill the ground water artificially to avoid severe water crisis in the drought prone districts of Gujarat;

(c) if so, the funds earmarked for implementation of artificial ground water development scheme in Gujarat; and

(d) the funds allocated to Gujarat during the last three year and likely to be released in the current year?